Acquisition of Vessels

176. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to double the existing liner fleet strength for additional tonnage during the next three years;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed acquisition of vessels; and

(c) the details of the existing fleet strength?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing strength of Indian fleet as on 30th September, 2004 is 665 vessels with GT of 7.69 million.

Roads in Tamil Nadu

177. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh proposal is under consideration by Government for the development of highways and other roads in Tamil Nadu, the expenditure of which does not fall under anyone of Golden Quadrilateral or the North-South-East-West Corridor project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) In the Annual Plan for the current Financial year, there are 45 nos of proposals amounting to Rs. 130.00 crore pertaining to improvement of roads and reconstruction of major bridges/minor bridges/culverts on National Highways in Tamil Nadu.

(ii) 107 nos of works amounting to Rs. 140.62 crore, pertaining to improvement of other roads under CRF, have also been sanctioned by the Ministry during the current financial year 2004-05. Details are at Statement (*see* below).